

TURTLE BACK ZOO

**560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
201-731-5800**

Valentine's Day Poetry Contest

Show your love for your favorite Turtle Back Zoo animal by writing a poem about it. The contest is open to all special education students in Essex County. Deadline for submission is January 20, 1984. The awards ceremony is February 12, 1984 (snow date February 19.) The contest is sponsored by Urban Voices.

URBAN VOICES was created in July, 1980, through the cooperative efforts of Anne Gadson Brown, Joanne Butler and Marian Crewe. Urban Voices is a group of poets and artists bound together spiritually for the purpose of sharing their thoughts, ideas and experiences. The goal of Urban Voices is to reach out to individuals in the elementary and secondary schools, colleges, prisons and senior citizen and community centers. In these institutions, they conduct poetry and art workshops and seminars, present up-and-coming poets and artists, publish an anthology and develop a quarterly journal of poetry.

THEATRE

Theatre Row

"Between Rails" is a story of a Black woman in her 60's who is traveling back south to her home, after working most of her life for an affluent white family in the north. It stars Thelma Louise Carter as Willemae. Ms. Carter is a veteran actress with a long list of credits including "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "The River Niger," and "South Pacific." She has also directed and is presently teaching and directing at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Ms. Carter has studied in the United States and England.

The play is directed by Hal Scott. The innovative and realistic set, which is a cutaway view of the inside of a passenger train, was designed by Mark Haack. Sound effects of a train and the imaginative lighting by Shirley Prendergast convinced the audience of the trip being made. Costumes by Karen Perry.

Thelma Louise Carter is a talented and inspiring actress. What she does essentially is conduct a one-woman show, as



she is the only live character in the play. There is an imaginary cat, but he is very imaginary. Ms. Carter has done a very

good job with a play that has almost no action. The entire play revolves around her recalling her years as housekeeper for "her family" and the incidents of a spoiled young girl that had accumulated over the years, causing her and the imaginary cat to leave her home/job with no security for her old age. Ms. Carter manages to hold your attention, for the most part, with her dialog. She chuckles and relates incidents that to a Black audience, are real. The problem is that talking to any elderly Black woman in the United States you might get a similar narrative without having to spend the money to go to Theatre Row.

The playwright, Eric Hertz, won the 1983 Hutchinson Festival of New Plays for "Between the Rails." The play is now being produced by New Writers and Hal Scott at the South Street Theatre Off Broadway, Tuesday thru Sunday. For tickets and information, call (212) 279-4200.

The New Jersey Alternative

Theater of Universal Images' season opened with a showcase of Newark's Urban Voices, a poetry company, specially staged for theatrical production. Themes for this presentation center on family, love relationships and consciousness-raising issues.

To try and briefly describe this presentation is difficult. Urban Voices is a group of poets/writers/performers founded by Anne Brown Cheatam and including Zul-latifatu Zahir, Evelyn Johnson, Wilhelmina Lawson, Myron Rodgers and Zakiyyah Muhammad all making their first appearances on the TUI stage. Also in this production are Noble Lee Lester and Ed Fleming who have been in numerous TUI productions.

A collection of timely and inspiring poetry was coordinated, directed and choreographed by Ron Stacker Thompson who has done a fantastic job. The show has you smiling, clapping, stomping, wanting to cry as you watch the street people parade across the stage leaving

A Soldiers Story

A man that works with his brain is an intellect.

A man that works with his hands is a craftsman.

A man that works with his brains and his hands is an artist.

The actors and actress in a Soldiers Story are multi talented artist. The story written by superlative Charles Fuller. Adolf Caesar, Howard Rollins, Patti Labelle and the entire cast are magnificent. The picture has given these talented artist the opportunity to show the viewing audiences all over the world how dedication to ones craft has developed their great talent. The acting is fast moving, the story is interesting and of course the music is terrific with Pattie Labelle taking the musical lead. She brings that necessary ingredient and handles it well.

Adolf Caesar received an Audelco award for his excellent portrayal of the Sergeant in the Negro Ensembles theatrical production of a Soldiers Play. Adolf plays the same part in the movie production. He has given so much to the arts, perseverance, sacrifice and all the disciplines needed to have a successful career. Congratulations to Adolf and his wife for the birth of their son Justin.

A Soldiers Story is playing at theatres in and around the New York, New Jersey area. Put forth that extra effort and see the movie, it's worth the effort.

gems of wisdom in poetry and song. The show in a word was stimulating with the music of J.C. Donelson and sets and lighting by David Mead.

Costumes by Wilhelmina Lawson were colorful and appropriate. Especially good were the costumes for the "bag lady" as was the performance of the "bag lady" by Zul-latifatu Zahir. In "Surplus What," she warns the unsuspecting poor people not to eat government surplus food, as it has been doctored to finish up genocide plans that dope and herpes had not yet accomplished.

Refreshingly Noble Lee Lester presented "I Found It," referring to love and warmly Anne Brown Cheatam gave us "Touch Me."



Adolf Caesar

INSTANT LOANS
ON GOLD JEWELRY • DIAMONDS & WATCHES •
WALKER RICH & SON
OPEN DAILY 9-6 • 623-1616
857 BROAD ST. NEWARK

NEED AUTO INSURANCE? WE CAN HELP
• No Service Fee • No Interest Charge
• Money Back Guarantee • Excellent Service
CALL 676-7500
CONSUMERS INSURANCE
591 CENTRAL AVE. EAST ORANGE, N.J.

Urban Voices will run through Nov. 4th at Theater of Universal Images, 1020 Broad Street, Newark. The executive producer is Clarence C. Lilley and producer, Pamela Goodlow. You should hurry and catch this presentation as it brings to mind the artistic riches of Black people that came to the fore in the sixties. This piece is a testimony that those talents still exist but would be stifled without the never relenting bastions of Black theater such as TUI. Tickets and information are available. Call (201) 596-0407.

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND
THE EFFECT UPON THE AUDIENCE IS DEVASTATING

Don't Miss This One!
SUN., NOV. 11th—3 PM
\$15, \$12, \$9
Reserved Seating
201/567-5797

JOHN HARMS ENGLEWOOD PLAZA
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
30 North Van Brunt St. Englewood, NJ 07631 201/567-5797

